

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Kuskokwim River Salmon Fishery News Release 4

Kuskokwim River Subsistence Salmon Fishing Update

This is an announcement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Bethel for subsistence salmon fishermen in the Kuskokwim River drainage.

Subsistence salmon fishing in the mainstem of the Kuskokwim River is open to all gear types and unrestricted gillnet mesh size.

There are subsistence salmon fishing restrictions in some Kuskokwim River tributaries. Subsistence king salmon fishing with hook and line gear is closed and gillnets are restricted to 4-inch or less mesh size not to exceed 60-feet in length and 45 meshes deep until 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 25, 2013, in the following waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage:

- The Kwethluk River drainage including where it meets with Kuskokuak Slough and downstream to ADF&G regulatory markers located at the downstream mouth of the slough.
- The Kasigluk and Kisaralik river drainages including Old Kuskokuak Slough to ADF&G regulatory markers where the Old Kuskokuak Slough meets with Kuskokuak Slough.
- The Tuluksak River drainage including where it meets with the Kuskokwim River and downstream approximately 1-mile to ADF&G regulatory markers.
- The Aniak River drainage to ADF&G regulatory markers where it meets with the Kuskokwim River.

The Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group (Working Group) met on Tuesday, June 11, to hear subsistence salmon fishing reports and discuss salmon run assessment. Many subsistence fishermen from Bethel and downstream of Bethel report good catches of king salmon for this early in the run and fishing is better than it was this time last year. The Bethel Test Fishery (BTF) project has been operating since June 1. The first king salmon at BTF was caught on June 8 and king salmon catches have continued. ADF&G and USFWS recommended to maintain the existing subsistence salmon fishing restrictions on the tributaries and to keep subsistence salmon fishing open on the mainstem to all gear types and unrestricted gillnet mesh size. The Working Group voted unanimously to support the recommendation.

The next Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 19 at the Bethel Fish and Game office.

Working Group meetings are open to the public and may be attended in person or by teleconference. The teleconference number is 1-800-315-6338 and the conference code is 58756#.

Further announcements will be made from the Bethel Fish and Game office and through local radio stations. News releases will be faxed to area villages and local fish processing companies.

For additional information concerning this news release:

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